

Harpswell Conservation Commission
Minutes for Workshop Meeting, December 9, 2008, 3:00 PM,
Municipal Office Building, 263 Mountain Road, Harpswell, Maine 04079

Members present: Mary Ann Nahf (chair), Anne Perry (secretary), Don Jones, Tony Barrett, Ann Nemrow Burr Taylor, Deirdre Strachan

Also present: Carol Tukey (Town Planner) (Marcel Polak was unable to present due to weather in western Maine.).

Minutes of the November 17 (corrected) and December 2 meetings were postponed due to sending glitch.

1. Vernal Pools Committee. Possible grants to enable the ID of Harpswell vernal pools to proceed next year: Grassroots Fund offers small \$2000 grants; Carol will apply for \$15,000 CDBG (Cumberland Co.). Vanessa Levesque sent materials from Brunswick's VP including forms for baseline data collection on sites, letter and postcard to landowners, permission form, monitoring data.

It seems one town dropped out of the consortium that received the VP grant through Maine Audubon; Maryann will contact them to see if Harpswell could fit in as substitute on the grant. VP questions will be included in our Q&A sheet. Carol: Aram Calhoun may be available to speak to us on VPs in January. She will also present at Curtis Library March 24 at 7 PM.

2. Open Space Plan Outreach.

a. Q&A. These were discussed at length. Deirdre offered to reorder and incorporate suggestions. Burr offered to work on a brochure with Q&A, possibly to include a picture of our ultimate open space – the ocean with fishing boats – to emphasize the town's connection, economically and otherwise.

b. Other. Ann N. brought up the article she read about abuse of tax incentives for tree growth.
Anne P. will try to get an article on eel grass in the January Anchor.

c. Focus Area Property Owners. Carol prepared a map and Ann a list of owners with 20+ acres. It was divided among those present. Each will call ahead and visit with them using the brochure as an opener, also giving them the focus area map and executive summary of the Plan, and including specific point to the area under consideration.. This can be done in the next two months.

3. Other Business.

The Selectmen signed off on the FP Environmental contract at their last meeting.

Burr: The Town webpage still has not put in the links suggested, nor the information on the Focus Areas.

Adjourned around 5:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Perry, Secretary.

Next meetings: Workshops January 6 (finalize Q&A), 13, 27. Regular meeting January 20. All at 3:00 PM
The only other OSP public presentation will be when Selectmen hold their warrant hearing for Town Meeting.